

## Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell and Alexander Melville Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell and Alexander Graham Bell, July 8, 1881

Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell and Copy of a letter from (Alexander Melville Bell to , Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell 88 Eyette St., Georgetown July 8th, '81 My dear Mabel and Alec:

Many many happy returns of your wedding day, and may each succeeding year bring with it a fresh stock of health, love, and happiness with as many new little loves as can be conveniently admitted to the home circle.

Papa and our young people cordially ? send every good wish. I have commissioned a dealer in Hartford to forward a tiny gift to you which I hope may arrive in time. I have not seen it but liked the description I read, and hope you may find the “ladies combination card case” useful. As to dear Alec, we can only reiterate gifts which he possesses already — hearts full of love, gratitude and admiration.

We hope dear Mabel that you are now quite strong and that the weather with you is still cool enough for “overcoats.” The temperature has been much warmer during the past week with us, though it has never risen so high as 90. At the Laboratory however it has been near 100 occasionally. Poor Chester cries out woefully. With us it is generally cool on the north side of the house — comparatively speaking — and as I write a delightful breeze is blowing upon me from my bedroom windows. Alfred is making frames covered with gauze for all the windows, so that we can have them open without danger of admitting flies or mosquitoes. As to the latter we have not seen one yet!

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Mary I am glad to say is now quite well. We all regret that Susan will not be able to stay with us, having an invalid mother to look after.

Of course, with everybody else you must have been greatly 2 shocked and grieved at what befel the poor President. We all feel as anxious that he should recover as though he belonged to us.

Four families in the neighborhood have called upon us.

Hoping shortly to hear that all is well with you and a thousand loves and kisses to the children, I am, dear Mabel and Alec,

Your affectionate Mother, E. G. BELL

Dear Both:

I am glad to see that room is left for me to add my congratulations. Many happy — and no unhappy — returns of your wedding day! May you welcome each return as we do after thirty-seven years' experience! We are just getting comfortably settled after our turmoil and only wish you could be here to see the results. With dear love to yourselves and the children, and every good wish, I am

Your affectionate father, ALEC. MELVILLE BELL